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disposed in various directions according to locality. Sometimes the columns are horizontal, resembling piled cord-wood, and all are generally regular and more or less artificial looking.

From this extraordinary gorge we finally issued on a rolling country well covered with bunch-grass, which continued to our destination, the Dalles, on the Columbia river.

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## EDITORS' TABLE.

EDITORS: E. D. COPE AND J. S. KINGSLEY.

In the annual address of the President of the Biological Society of Washington, Mr. G. Brown Goode, Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, uses the following language:<sup>1</sup> "I think the general tendency of a careful study of the distribution of scientific men and institutions, is to show that the people of the United States, except in so far as they sanction by their approval the work of scientific departments of the Government, and the institutions established by private munificence, have little reason to be proud of the national attitude towards science." This indictment is brought after a careful survey of the ground by a naturalist of undoubted competency, and of exceptional opportunities for acquiring information. We are compelled to agree with Secretary Goode, and can, we think, point out some of the conditions of this state of affairs.

Our complaint is that the average American citizen does not know what original scientific research is, and that if he acquires wealth, and wishes to do something for the benefit of his fellow-men, as he does more frequently than the citizen of any other country, he does not do anything for the *production* of knowledge. He devotes money to schools and to libraries, but towards the creation of the books to be used in them, and the truths to be taught in them, he does nothing. Forgetting the lessons of his business training, he apparently imagines that knowledge is derived from some mysterious internal process of the mind, and that the producer

<sup>1</sup> 1887, pp. 92-3.

needs neither material nor apparatus. He supposes that he can make money and scientific discoveries at the same time, and so does not need food, clothing, nor shelter. Or if these essentials be provided, he exacts such an amount of teaching from the unfortunate recipient, that scientific production is suppressed at its fountain-head. Yet these good people like to talk about the scientific progress of the age, and of the benefits that it confers on mankind. Of course most of this comes from an ignorance of what great fields of knowledge remain yet unexplored, and an incapacity to understand what a change will be wrought in our thoughts and acts by the acquisition of that knowledge. The solution of the great mystery of the relations of mind to matter has no interest for them; or, if it has, carries with it no impress of utility. Perhaps some people of little faith fear the results of such knowledge, not reflecting that it is better to traverse the paths of life and death with one's eyes open, rather than with them shut.

The actual state of original research in America justifies the language of Secretary Goode. The number of positions available for the original investigator in the country is small, and many of these are occupied by incompetent persons who add little or nothing to scientific knowledge. Our so-called "Academies of Science"<sup>1</sup> have become lyceums, where little beyond popular display and instruction is attempted. It is true that most of these societies publish "Proceedings," etc., but whence the material to fill these publications with worthy matter is to come, they do not concern themselves. The perversion of these societies from their true object is inevitable, so long as they are compelled to elect members for financial reasons.

After Academies of Science come the Universities. Here the same spirit presents the same obstacles to research. But little time is granted the professors in most of them, and in one case the position has been distinctly announced, that original research does the University no good. The philistinism is here fairly expressed, and the issue is made. Continental Europe is, however, against this modern barbarism, and progress can still find congenial climes. Germany still turns out her volumes rich with observation and thought, on a financial basis so small as to furnish little more than buttons and kid gloves for a fashionable American family.

<sup>1</sup> Except the U. S. National Academy.

But Americans are not Germans, replies a gentleman "of the old school". If so, what is the difference? We have the financial ability, and there is no deficiency of mind in certain classes in the United States. One answer is, that there is a dissociation of the mind and the money. Occasionally an attempt is made to effect a combination. Sometimes the method is grotesque; as when a wealthy merchant recently offered a University the sum of \$200,000, to put his son through a four years' course, and make him a professor afterwards. Sometimes the attempt is successful, as in the case of the Allis Laboratory of Milwaukee. We can only say may there be many Allises in the future of our history, and may they be as judicious in their selection of workmen.

We suspect, however, that this state of affairs will not last. The Universities are doing their good work of educating the people, and from these will spring, from time to time, men who understand the growth of the human mind, and how to aid it.

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## RECENT LITERATURE.

WINCHELL'S GEOLOGICAL STUDIES.<sup>1</sup>—In this work we have an aid to the study of Geology in its various departments, which will have a distinct influence in advancing the knowledge of the science. The student, whether in the school-room or in the field, will find its utility undoubted, whether the clearness of the descriptions or the excellence of the illustrations be taken into account. The long experience of the distinguished author, both in original research, and in teaching, qualify him especially for the production of a work like the present. The departments of stratigraphic and dynamic geology may be specified as the best, as they are the most extended divisions of the book. We cannot speak as highly of the palæontological part. The list of the "most important types of animals and plants," beginning on page 305, is mostly constructed either after antiquated models, or else after false lights of modern character. The Vertebrata are especially bad, and the nomenclature adopted is mostly one which the student will have to forget, if he or she be so unfortunate as to have remembered it. With this defect remedied in future editions we can heartily recommend the work for general use.

<sup>1</sup> Geological Studies or Elements of Geology for High Schools, Normal and other Schools; with 367 illustrations. By Alexander Winchell, LL.D. Second edition. Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co. 8vo. pp. 513.